

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS**  
**QUARTERLY ROUNDTABLE MEETING**  
**APRIL 27, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Chair Eleanor R. Montano  
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos  
Frank Bacio  
Vito Cannella  
John Hammargren  
Carl Moore (temporarily absent)

**Absent**

James Cragin

**Others Present**

Rex White, Regional Adm., DCFS  
Robert Landrum, Director, Camp  
Afflerbaugh, Probation  
Alex Nieto, Probation  
Kathy New, Probation  
Dottie Misetic, East SGV ROP  
Jim Corbett, Executive Office  
Lee Millen, Senior Staff  
Twila P. Kerr, Commission Staff

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Montano reported that Darren Russell's funeral services will be held in May.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bacio reported that the balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$788.96.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Twila P. Kerr, Staff, reported that the group home inspection reports requested by the Auditors and DCFS were faxed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2005**

The minutes were deferred to the next regular meeting.

### **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

All participants presented individual reports, contributed valuable input, shared their respective experiences and brought the benefit of their expertise to a Roundtable discussion regarding the regulations and the monitoring of group/foster homes.

**Probation Department:** Robert Landrum, Director, Camp Afflerbaugh, Probation, reported that a Barbering Course will soon be offered. The course will be accredited through San Gabriel Valley ROP, and youth 16 years and older taking the course will receive high school credits. Senator Margett donated \$7,500 to launch the program and Chief Probation Officer Paul Higa provided departmental funding (\$7,500) towards construction for classroom #2. Construction of classroom #2 has begun, plumbing is being installed, and shampoo bowls and all additional equipment has been ordered from ISD. Classes are to be held on Saturdays for 8 hours. All hours acquired will go towards the 1600 hours needed to take the State Barbering exams to obtain licensing. Two licensed barbers will teach the class.

Dottie Misetic, Assistant Supervisor, San Gabriel Valley ROP, reported that the start-up cost for the Barbering Course is \$4,754.72 for 20 students to participate. Ms. Misetic distributed a list of barbering supplies purchased for the class (copy on file). Also, she noted to save cost, one workbook is being purchased and copies will be made for each student; ADA will pay for the two instructors. Ms. Misetic noted that as soon as the plumbing is ready, ROP is ready to work with Director Landrum to start the program. Also, she shared her interest in mentoring the youth while in the program, and through ROP and LA Works she can help program graduates with job placement.

Alex Nieto, Probation, reported on case planning for every Probation resident:

- More in-home visits;
- Probation Officers to be more involved in cases;
- Parent involvement with youth and Probation Officer; and
- Youth 16 and over will be sent to Camp Afflerbaugh.

Commissioner Cannella expressed his enthusiasm for the Barbering program and noted that he has been a long-term advocate of youth learning this trade. Also, he noted that Barbering can be a very lucrative trade and will give the youth an opportunity to make a decent living for themselves as adults. He also suggested that ROP contact the Barbering Union Local 770 for retired barbers to volunteer with the program.

In response to Commissioner Moore, Ms. Misetic noted that more than 20 youth can participate, however, some youth will not be in the camp long enough to complete the program.

Director Landrum briefly spoke on the Ambulance First Responder Course that graduates students every 90 days; upon graduation youth can attend EMT school. Also, in the past the Camp offered a plumbing course.

**Dept. of Children and Family Services:** Rex White, Regional Administrator, DCFS, reported DCFS' implementation of changes for child abuse and out of home care placements. A regional operation is in place where every departmental office is responsible for the homes in their area. Workers are trained for out-of-home operations and are able to make assessments whether a child should be removed from the home.

Once a child is removed from the home they are placed in the same zip code as the home they came from to remain connected to their surroundings (school and family). This process has been in operation for over a month and seems to be working well. Also, this process allows each office to better handle their projected workload of 20-25 cases.

In response to Chair Montano and Vice Chair Stathatos, Mr. White noted that there are several emergency transition places to take the children until placement is made, and there is a 23 hour facility in Paramount. However, the ultimate goal is to move children back to permanency, whether it is with their parent(s) or a family member. In addition, the "do not use, do not refer list was e-mailed to staff member Sherry Scates. Due to her leave of absence, staff will request that a copy be forwarded to Twila or Lee.

## **FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS**

### **Manna Manor, Inc – 66#3**

Chair Montano visited this facility on April 25<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**, with no areas of concern observed or reported.

### **Ettie Lee Home – 34#1**

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on April 21<sup>st</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**, with no areas of concern observed or reported.

### **Van Nuys Superior Courthouse**

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this courthouse on April 25<sup>th</sup> and gave it a rating of **Satisfactory**. Areas of concern: Phone wires torn out in women's cell, female detainees alleged that Twin Towers' deputies were extremely disrespectful and were non-responsive, and dirty clothing is issued, and medical service is poor.

### **Ingrid's Residential Care – 59#1**

Commissioners Bacio and Moore visited this facility on April 26<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**, with no areas of concern observed or reported. Commissioners advised Director that they purchase a larger first aid kit, and that fire extinguishers be inspected for possible replacement.

### **M and R Group Home - 65#1**

Commissioners Bacio and Moore visited this facility on April 19<sup>th</sup> and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**, with no areas of concern observed or reported. However, the facility needs a new first aid kit, and the fire extinguisher needs to be inspected.

## **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Montano distributed inspection assignments to Commissioners for the following week.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)**

Commissioner Moore suggested that the Commission forward a letter of congratulations to Paul Higa, the recently appointed Chief Probation Officer.

Chair Montano directed staff to send thank you letters to all guests in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Twila P. Kerr*  
**Commission Staff**